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ing the historical part to thirty or forty pages, the author seems to lose sight of one of the chief reasons which justify the preservation of the Roman law as a part of a modern educational curriculum.

The book is mainly devoted to an explanation of the principles of the law as set forth in the *Institutes*, supplying the deficiencies of the *Institutes* by an appeal to the *Digest*. This exposition shows the author to be a careful student and a faithful follower of the Roman system. The whole body of the law is divided, as Gaius divided it, into that which pertains either to persons, or to things, or to actions (*vel ad personas vel ad res vel ad actiones*). The discussion of these separate divisions is presented in such an analytical form as to make clear the fine distinctions of the law, without confusion or ambiguity. The system of notation which the author has adopted in his subdivisions of the subject will be found a great aid to the student in enabling him to perceive and to fix in his mind the logical relations of the various parts of the law. Although frequent use has evidently been made of the works of standard English writers, such as Sandars, Moyle, Roby, Muirhead, as well as Ledlie's translation of Sohm, there is a certain perspicuity in this book which is due to the author's own peculiar and original method of treatment. The very systematic arrangement of the material, and the frequent illustration of legal principles by concrete examples, give to his discussions an unusual distinctness and reality. While the author has in one or two instances (e. g., in treating of the effect of the "mancipatory" will, or the *testamentum per aes et libram*) expressed an opinion at variance with the chief authorities, he has usually presented the accepted views of the law; and has also wisely left to more recondite works the discussion of certain mooted questions, such as those which have arisen among commentators in connection with the law of "possession." When considered as a simple and systematic exposition of the elements of the Roman private law, both in their broad outline and in their most important details, this book possesses many valuable features and must be regarded as an acceptable addition to the literature of the subject.

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*Tibulli aliorumque carminum libri tres.* Recognovit brevique adnotatione critica instruxit IOHANNES PERCIVAL POSTGATE. Oxonii: E typographeo Clarendoniano [1906]. \$0.50.

This convenient little edition will at once take its place as the most useful text of Tibullus in the market. In pursuance of the plan of the Oxford series its tone is distinctly "conservative." Indeed, to those who have applauded the same editor's Propertius (London and Cambridge, 1894), with its flood of daring and often brilliant innovations, his present performance may not improbably suggest the painful comparison of

Pegasus harnessed to a dray. Critics of this way of thinking will appreciate the pathos of the following excerpt from the preface:

De caelo descendisse iam illud volgo videtur: *standum codicibus*. adiciunt prudentiores *modo si bonis et in re incerta*. ego vero, qui haud paullo audacior sum, *etiam pessimis* inquam, *et vel in re manifesta*.

But Professor Postgate has not carried audacity to the pitch of leaving the received text quite where he found it, and the compact little apparatus contributes a goodly number of suggestions for the guidance of those timid souls who find it easier to stomach the absurdities of the mediaeval scribes when they are seasoned with a dash of scholarly criticism. The selection of the conjectures to be printed is marked by the same good taste and penetration which stamp the editor's own contributions—characteristics which classical students have long been used to expect in work which comes from Dr. Postgate's pen.

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*Catalogus codicum Graecorum bibliothecae Ambrosianae*. Digesserunt AEMIDIUS MARTINI et DOMINICUS BASSI. Tomi duo. (Paginae 1161 praeter praefationem et indices locupletissimos.) Mediolani: impensis U. Hoepli. MCMVI. L. 50.

The catalogues of Greek manuscripts in Italian libraries, made and published by native scholars in recent years, are both numerous and excellent. In the first ten volumes of the *Studi Italiani* alone, sixteen scholars, following the admirable method of Vitelli and Piccolomini, have given exact descriptions of the Greek manuscripts in twenty libraries in sixteen different Italian towns. This work requires patience and industry as well as paleographical skill and large acquaintance with Greek literature, and it lays learned men everywhere under heavy obligations.

One of the accomplished editors of the two volumes now under review had executed single-handed, before the present task was begun and while he was still prefect of the Brera, the greater part of a similar task of such magnitude that it might well have deterred him from future labors of the same kind.<sup>1</sup> But he and his colleague, after twelve years' labor, have happily brought a still more important undertaking to successful completion, and the learned world now has at easy command a trustworthy account of the contents of the 1,098 Greek manuscripts, comprehending about 2,500 works, that constitute the chief treasure of the Ambrosian Library.

<sup>1</sup>E. Martini, *Catalogo di manoscritti Greci esistenti nelle biblioteche italiane*: opera premiata dalla R. Accademia di Archeologia, Lettere e Belle Arti di Napoli, Vols. I, II, pp. 430, 271 (1893, 1902).